

The decision Sinclair Broadcasting made to force their stations to air a partisan anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a perfect example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair has a legal obligation to serve the public interest when using the public airwaves free of charge. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of a partisan political attack produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.